

suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 209.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SYRIAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1828) to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, and stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, and by so doing hold Syria accountable for the serious international security problems it has caused in the Middle East.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

- (1)Page 2, strike out lines 8 through 15
- (2)Page 2, line 16 strike out [(2)] and insert: (1)
- (3)Page 2, line 20 strike out [(3)] and insert: (2)
- (4)Page 3, line 3 strike out [(4)] and insert: (3)
- (5)Page 3, line 11 strike out [(5)] and insert: (4)
- (6)Page 3, line 18 strike out [(6)] and insert: (5)
- (7)Page 4, line 1 strike out [(7)] and insert: (6)
- (8)Page 4, line 7 strike out [(8)] and insert: (7)
- (9)Page 4, line 12 strike out [(9)] and insert: (8)
- (10)Page 4, line 16 strike out [(10)] and insert: (9)
- (11)Page 4, line 21 strike out [(11)] and insert: (10)
- (12)Page 5, line 1 strike out [(12)] and insert: (11)
- (13)Page 5, line 6 strike out [(13)] and insert: (12)
- (14)Page 5, line 16 strike out [(14)] and insert: (13)
- (15)Page 5, line 20 strike out [(15)] and insert: (14)
- (16)Page 6, line 3 strike out [(16)] and insert: (15)
- (17)Page 6, line 14 strike out [(17)] and insert: (16)
- (18)Page 6, line 20 strike out [(18)] and insert: (17)
- (19)Page 6, line 23 strike out [(19)] and insert: (18)
- (20)Page 7, line 6 strike out [(20)] and insert: (19)
- (21)Page 7, line 10 strike out [(21)] and insert: (20)
- (22)Page 7, line 23 strike out [(22)] and insert: (21)
- (23)Page 8, line 9 strike out [(23)] and insert: (22)

(24)Page 8, line 19 strike out [(24)] and insert: (23)

(25)Page 9, line 3 strike out [(25)] and insert: (24)

(26)Page 9, line 7 strike out [(26)] and insert: (25)

(27)Page 9, line 14 strike out [(27)] and insert: (26)

(28)Page 9, line 18 strike out [(28)] and insert: (27)

(29)Page 9, strike out lines 21 through 24

(30)Page 10, line 1 strike out [(30)] and insert: (28)

(31)Page 10, line 10 strike out [(31)] and insert: (29)

(32)Page 10, line 18 strike out [(32)] and insert: (30)

(33)Page 10, line 24 strike out [(33)] and insert: (31)

(34)Page 11, line 4 strike out [(34)] and insert: (32)

(35)Page 11, line 9 strike out [(35)] and insert: (33)

(36)Page 12, line 1 strike out [(36)] and insert: (34)

(37)Page 15, line 1 strike out [will be held responsible] and insert: *should bear responsibility*

(38)Page 15, line 6, strike out all after "States" down to and including "ity" in line 7 and insert: *will work to deny Syria the ability*

(39)Page 15, strike out lines 18 through 20

(40)Page 15, line 21 strike out [(5)] and insert: (4)

(41)Page 16, line 1 strike out [(6)] and insert: (5)

(42)Page 16, line 6 strike out [(7)] and insert: (6)

(43)Page 16, line 11 strike out [(8)] and insert: (7)

(44)Page 16, line 15 strike out [(9)] and insert: (8)

(45)Page 16, line 17, after "Iraq" insert: *if the Government of Syria is found to be responsible*

(46)Page 16, line 20 strike out [(10)] and insert: (9)

(47)Page 18, strike lines 15 through 20 and insert:

(b) *WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), or both if the President determines that it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so and submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the reasons for the determination.*

(48)Page 20, line 6, strike out all after "has" down to and including "Lebanon" in line 8 and insert: *ended its occupation of Lebanon described in section 2(7) of this Act*

(49)Page 21, line 15, strike out all after "and" down to and including "other" in line 17

(50)Page 21, line 20, strike out all after "Hizballah" down to and including "al Qaeda" in line 21 and insert: *and other terrorist organizations supported by Syria*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just 2 weeks ago, the Senate amended and overwhelmingly passed H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability and the Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act.

The overwhelming support that the House-passed Syria bill received in the Senate and in the House clearly demonstrates a unity of purpose and an approach to the terrorist regime in Damascus. Even antisansctions advocates in the Senate recognize the serious threat that Syria poses to U.S. national security and to our interests and allies in the region.

This bill seeks to hold Syria accountable for its weapons program, its continued illegal occupation of Lebanon, and its terrorist activities, including its facilitation of attacks against Americans in Iraq.

The Syrian Foreign Minister has been quoted as saying that the requirements of this bill and of the U.S. in general for Syria to cease and desist on these three fronts are "unreasonable and unrealistic" demands. In fact, the Syrian Foreign Minister believes that "America has too many demands."

Meanwhile, just a few days ago, on Tuesday of this week, a French news source published an interview with a former member of Saddam Hussein's nefarious Secret Service. This former Saddam agent and current leader of the militias inside Iraq said that Syria is "definitely" working alongside Iraqi intelligence and other Saddam loyalists. He said that there is cooperation between Syria and his forces inside Iraq, and that "It began before the war, through trade, which was only a cover."

"Armed Syrians," he added, "even joined our Iraqi militia groups. And well before the war, we had forged passports that enabled us to go to that country," meaning Syria. He added that this coordination continues to this day.

Thus, regardless of how some will spin it, the Syrian regime has the blood of Americans on its hands, and they must be held responsible for their deaths, as well as those of scores of innocent human beings murdered by Syrian-sponsored terrorists.

Fully implemented, H.R. 1828 would help deny Syria the resources to continue its deplorable activities and will help prevent U.S. complicity in them. It seeks to do so by prohibiting U.S. exports of military, dual-use, and other items, as well as by prohibiting investments in key sectors that provide an economic windfall for the Syrian economy. We have every faith and confidence in President Bush's commitment to use the range of U.S. policy

options, including the sanctions provided for in H.R. 1828, to hold Syria accountable for its unacceptable behavior.

As the President and the Secretary of State have clearly stated, Syria is on the wrong side of history. And now, it is time for it to suffer the consequences.

I ask my colleagues to concur with the Senate amendments to the House-passed bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Mr. Speaker, among the many Members who deserve commendation for the bill before us, I would like to single out for recognition my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) who first introduced this bill in the 107th Congress; my good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her superb chairmanship of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia who joined the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), in initiating this bill in the 108th Congress; and my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia, who has been a tireless fighter for tough-minded U.S. policies towards State sponsors of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, for years, our government has favored Syria over other State sponsors of terrorism. We allow more trade with Syria than with the others, and we maintain normal diplomatic ties with Syria. This legislation, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, will end this special treatment, this inequity. It will make our Syria policy more like our policies toward other State sponsors of terrorism. With this legislation, Syria's support for terrorism, as well as Syria's illegal occupation of Lebanon, will become the central focus of our bilateral relations, rather than just an afterthought.

Mr. Speaker, Syrian-sponsored terrorism was responsible for the worst pre-September 11 terrorist incident in American history: the cold-blooded murder of 241 of our Marines by a suicide bomber in Lebanon a few years ago. Now, Syrian behavior is resulting in more American military being killed, this time in Iraq.

Recently, as my colleagues know, I visited Syria and met with President Bashar al-Asad. I warned him that the Syria Accountability Act would soon be on its way to passage unless Syria changed its ways. My words to him were both a prediction and a pledge. Asad understood me perfectly. The Secretary of State, Colin Powell, delivered a very similar message to him one week after my visit.

Yet, Syria's unacceptable and menacing behavior has not changed. Palestinian terrorists still populate Damascus. Hezbollah still occupies the south

of Lebanon, its military arsenal regularly replenished, both by arms from Syria and Iran. Lebanon continues to remain under Syria's thumb. There are some 17,000 Syrian occupation troops in Lebanon, and countless additional thousands of Syrian intelligence officers controlling Lebanon. Anti-U.S. incitement continues in the Syrian media. Dissident Syrian parliamentarians and academicians, who want only freedom, languish in prison. Terrorists and Jihadists are allowed to cross the Syrian border into Iraq for the purpose of killing our own fighting men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that this legislation had not been necessary, but the Syrian regime has made it so. Despite warning after warning, it has refused to heed the dictates of common sense. Now, Syria will pay the consequences.

The door to good relations with the United States has been wide open to Syria. Secretary of State Powell, myself, and others beckoned Syria to enter, but the Syrian regime has contemptuously slammed the door shut. Mr. Speaker, even now, as this legislation makes clear, our Nation would welcome good relations with Syria just as soon as the Syrian regime conforms to the minimal norms of civilized international conduct. Until then, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1828.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 7½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the originator of this legislation.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has been supportive every step of the way.

It has been a long road. Two years ago, when we sat down in my office and drafted this bill, we could hardly have dreamed the overwhelming support that this bill would have picked up, bipartisan support, I might add, in both the House and the Senate. In the previous Congress, the 107th Congress, I approached the then majority leader, Mr. Arney, about sponsoring this bill with me, and he very graciously agreed to do so. Our sponsors in the other body were Senator SANTORUM and Senator BOXER, and they, in the 108th Congress, continued to be the sponsors of the bill. In the 108th Congress, I spoke with my good friend and the chair of our subcommittee, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), and she joined with me in sponsoring this bill in the 108th Congress, and it has been a pleasure to work with her. I want to also thank our chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and all of the people who have worked so hard to bring this to fruition.

This is a very important bill. Syria is prominently listed by the U.S. State Department as a nation which supports terror. In 1979, the U.S. State Department put forth a list of countries which support terrorism and Syria was a charter member of that list. Syria has been on that State Department

list, unabated, for 24 years, and now, in 2003, Syria is the only nation currently on that list with which we have normal diplomatic relations. It never made any sense to me, it still does not, and this bill is an important step in saying to Syria, enough is enough. No longer are you going to get away with supporting terrorism. No longer are you going to get away with your weapons of mass destruction. No longer are you going to get away with your occupation and strangulation of the sovereign nation of Lebanon and, certainly, no longer will we allow you to get away with allowing terrorists to cross over your border into Iraq to do harm to U.S. troops, and weapons crossing over from Syria to Iraq to kill U.S. troops.

□ 1615

Numerous terrorist groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, maintain offices or training camps in Syria or areas of Syrian-occupied Lebanon with impunity under Syrian control and guidance.

Syria is in clear violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, which directs all states to refrain from providing any form of support for terrorists. Indeed, even after Secretary of State Powell's meeting with President Assad earlier this year, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist groups still remain active in Damascus and all over Syria and Lebanon.

Hezbollah is the group which killed more than 200 U.S. Marines in Beirut 20 years ago. Hezbollah continues to attack and wreak havoc in Israel's northern border. Hezbollah continues to kill American citizens. And yet Syria continues to play these duplicitous games. As General Aoun, the former leader of Lebanon, said, Syria plays a game where she is both the arsonist and the fireman. She starts the fire and then helps to put it out and expects accolades. Syria can no longer throw us crumbs and support terrorism at the same time and expect our accolades. She does not deserve it.

I think it is also interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that several days ago the bombings in Turkey and Istanbul, and there were other horrible bombings this morning, but the bombing of the two synagogues in Istanbul the other day were carried out by two cousins. And the mastermind of the bombings, a brother of one of the cousins, fled to Syria after the bombings.

Syria, of course, is safe haven for terrorists around the world. Now, not only does Syria undermine regional stability by harboring terrorist groups, its 20,000-strong occupation force has denied Lebanon its internationally guaranteed sovereignty and political independence. As called for in U.N. Security Council Resolution 520, it is time that Lebanon is run by the Lebanese, not by the Assad regime in Damascus.

I cannot tell you how many Lebanese Americans have called me and called my office and commended us for this

bill because people of Lebanese descent in this country are tired of seeing the stranglehold on Lebanon by Syria.

I am also concerned about Syrian efforts to field chemical and biological weapons in its development of long-range ballistic missiles. Considering the close ties Syria maintains with terrorist organizations, Syrian weapons of mass destruction programs are of grave concern. At a recent hearing of our Middle East subcommittee, the State Department confirmed that Syria is continuing to permit volunteers and others to enter Iraq from Syria to attack and kill Americans. This is totally unacceptable.

The broad spectrum of organizations which supports H.R. 1828 recognizes Syria as a major destabilizing factor in the region and see this bill as an essential tool to send a clear message to the Assad regime. The bill has 297 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 76 in the Senate, a majority in both Houses in both parties.

The legislation imposes a variety of penalties upon Syria until it ends its support of terrorism, withdraws its armed forces from Lebanon, halts development of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, and stops facilitating terrorism in Iraq and stops allowing people to cross the border to do harm to U.S. troops.

This act is a measured and flexible approach to deal with the challenge emanating from Syria. It clearly states that we will not accept Syria's support of terrorism and we call for a free and sovereign Lebanon. This is the right step in America's Middle East policy.

And, finally, I want to say the national security waiver authority in this bill, which was put in by the Senate, is to be taken very seriously by the President; and its provisions are not to be waived except in instances truly affecting the national security interest of the United States.

Let me just say, as Syria is still supporting terrorism, occupying Lebanon, procuring weapons of mass destruction, and permitting guerillas to enter Iraq to attack and kill our troops, I want to say to the White House that any waiver would have to outweigh those most dangerous transgressions.

I find it very hard to imagine what factor would be more important to the national security of the U.S. than those matters. The administration should be aware that any waiver will be given the strictest scrutiny by Congress. And I would hope that the President in signing this bill would understand that the full implementation of this bill ought to be put into effect right away.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. I urge all my colleagues to continue

their support for this important legislation. The United States must show Syria that there are consequences for supporting terrorism and undermining peace in the region.

H.R. 1828 holds Syria accountable for its continued support of terrorism, occupation of Lebanon, and possession and development of weapons of mass destruction. It gives the President the tools he needs to impose penalties on Syria unless Syria corrects its behavior immediately.

Syria is listed on the State Department's list of countries who harbor and support terrorism. Syria has proven to be a destabilizing force in the Middle East, continuing to develop and stockpile chemical weapons and the missiles to deliver them and remaining the occupying power in Lebanon. Syria offered support to Iraq even as U.S. and coalition forces were engaged in combat and has turned a blind eye to militants who slip across their borders into Iraq to kill American soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, yet Syria is subject to fewer U.S. sanctions than any other country considered a state sponsor of terrorism.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and also the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for introducing this legislation. I just want to urge my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to fully support and pass this bill as amended in the Senate.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the Syrian Accountability Act, I am proud to rise in strong support of this legislation. It is a remedy for the absence of a consistent, clear, and strong policy towards Syria today. And while we pass this bill today, we are sending a strong signal by passing this bill that Syria will be treated like other state sponsors of terrorist organizations.

Today, over in Iraq the Iraqi council, with the American administration support, buys electricity in a swap deal for energy and oil, inconsistent with both the principles and the values embedded in this policy. On the northern border of Iraq, we have opened up in dialogue with Syria a free trade zone, again inconsistent especially with the policy of this act and the values and the principles embedded here.

It is my hope here we not only send a signal to Syria when it comes to being a state sponsor of terrorism but to the administration that we must have a consistent policy, not one that says as a state sponsor of terrorism that you have penalties but on the other side we will continue to do trade as it relates to electricity, continue to do trade as it relates to opening up a trade zone between Iraq and Syria. If we want to buy electricity, there are sources like Turkey, Jordan, countries that are partners with America.

So it is my hope that we support this bill which is a good first step to sending a signal to Syria that its days of sponsoring terrorism are coming to an end and that the administration should announce a policy that sends a strong, consistent, unambiguous signal we will not do business with states that sponsor terrorism.

Once again, I want to associate myself with my colleagues who have worked so hard on this and for their great work. Again, it crosses both parties because it represents the values of all of those in the House and other democratic nations in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to those without whom this day would not have been possible. Of course, first and foremost, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), with whom it has been a pleasure to work for passage of this bill, the second time we pass it in just a few short weeks. Our impressive leadership here in the House, very particularly our majority leader whose unwavering commitment to U.S. national security and, thus, to this bill, were instrumental in moving this legislation. So thank you to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), my distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for his support and his assistance throughout this process, the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) who is always an inspiration to us all, to Tony Haddad and the Lebanese American community whose passion on these issues have served as a source of energy for us all.

And I would also like to pay special thanks to Yleem Poblete, committee staff director of our Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia. This will be the last piece of legislation that she will be handling for our subcommittee because she is awaiting White House approval in a State Department job working with Secretary John Bolton. And I thank Yleem for being a valuable member of my family, my legislative family for many, many years. I remember when Yleem and I first met and she was Miss Teen Florida. That was not so long ago. But she has been a wonderful friend and a part of my family for a long time. And we wish her God speed and much success.

And I would also like to ask my colleagues to reflect on the suffering of the Syrian and Lebanese people today and on the lives and the sacrifice of American, Israeli, and so many other victims of terrorist attacks supported by or facilitated by the Syrian regime. This bill is also for them. We look forward to working closely with President

Bush toward expeditious enactment and implementation of this bill.

Time has clearly run out for the Syrian regime. It had a choice to make, and it chose terrorism. That was the wrong choice. We have a choice to make. We have demonstrated it by our overwhelming vote in support of this bill, what our will is with respect to Syria's regime. Let us again send a strong, unequivocal message to this pariah state and concur in the Senate amendment to the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to again personally thank her for being my partner in this bill. This whole Congress, it could not have been done without her. And it was a pleasure to work with her. I want to state that for the record.

I also want to thank the gentleman who is to my left who is my chief of staff, Jason Steinbaum. When I say that we wrote the bill in my office, he is the man who did all the writing. And I want to acknowledge his role and his work and thank him. It is very difficult when you have a concept and then you want to put the concept into writing and then you want to pass it through all the channels that it needs to be passed through. But as you mentioned, our staffs do a magnificent job. We could not do what we do if it were not for the good work of our staff.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to working on the Saudi Arabia Accountability Act and the Iran Accountability Act. We have only just begun.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, a little over a month ago, this Act came before the House and I voted for it.

I believe that Syria's occupation of Lebanon and questionable policies toward terrorist groups are reprehensible. I also believe it is important for the Syrian government to realize that Americans of every political stripe (including those who, like me, opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq) are aware of and disapprove of many of Syria's actions.

I believe it is entirely appropriate for the United States to apply political and economic pressure on Syria to change its policies. However, I have decided to vote against the Syria Accountability Act tonight.

I am concerned about the increasing bellicose statements we have been hearing from London. I am concerned that our President may be setting the stage for the imposition of his vision of democracy in more and more places, and that he may use the many findings, senses of Congress, and statements of policy in this Act to promote actions that are contrary to the best interests of the United States.

This act is filled with nonbinding provisions that build a case against Syria, based on soft intelligence and reasonable, but undocumented, assumptions.

Ultimately, I fear that those provisions could be used to build a case for a military intervention against Syria.

For example, the bill before us contains language that speaks of "hostile actions" by Syria against U.S.-led forces in Iraq as though this is something we firmly know to be true. It is certainly possible that it is true. Yet there is no conclusive evidence as to the role of the Government of Syria in the attacks that have been carried out against our troops in Iraq. It is just this kind of poorly sourced insinuation that I fear might be used to build the case for a preemptive invasion of Syria.

It is unfortunate that the dangerous doctrine of preemption to which President Bush so obdurately subscribes makes members like me, who are truly concerned about wrongdoing by Syria, fearful of supplying the Administration with language like this to wield.

I remember that similar language regarding Iraq was misused by the Administration. We meant to express concerns and admonish the Iraqi government, but our words ended up being used as evidence for military action.

The standard of proof for a House expression of concern is and should be lower than the standard of proof for an invasion—but I don't think any of us can count on the Bush Administration to draw that distinction. Therefore, I must vote "no."

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1828.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1630

TAX RELIEF EXTENSION ACT OF 2003

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3521) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3521

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Tax Relief Extension Act of 2003".

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

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